

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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## KNAPP WILL GET CHANCE TO EXPLAIN

Outcome of State's Attorney Inquiry Depends Upon Developments of Investigator Bowers' Probe Into Bankrupt Banking Firm's Records.

Knapp Homestead Becomes Part of Assets of Bankrupt Estate—How Mass of Books and Records Came to Be Stored in Trumbull Barn.

Herbert M. Knapp, head of the defunct banking house of Burr & Knapp, will be given every opportunity to explain away any transactions that may appear questionable to the investigators of the state's attorney's office, now at work on the books of the bankrupt banking firm.

Knapp was invited to appear before the accountants and Attorney Spotswood D. Bowers, special investigator for this case, for State's Attorney Homer S. Cummings.

The Knapp residence in Park place, occupied many years by the family of Herbert M. Knapp, and lately held in the name of the banker's wife, has been turned into the assets of the bankrupt firm's estate. This action followed the suits brought by the firm's creditors against Knapp, in which fraud was alleged. The Knapps now live at the Strand.

There may be a dividend within a few months for Burr & Knapp creditors, according to figures submitted to the bankruptcy court today in the report of Trustee Chamberlain. The balance on hand April 1 was \$30,594.16. Under the law the creditors are entitled to a dividend when it is possible for the estate to pay one on a 5 per cent basis. The total claims amount to about \$200,000 but because of certain legal expenses the present balance is not quite large enough for a 5 per cent dividend.

The \$10,000 bond filed with the state to secure the safety of deposit is another item which will hasten the declaration of a dividend when the pending suit to recover on the bond is settled. The surety company, which furnished the bond, is expected to pay to the creditors on the technical ground that under the law each creditor should bring suit. When the bond is collected it will probably be distributed among the creditors instead of among the general creditors of the bankrupt firm.

The report of Trustee Chamberlain covers a period from August 27 last to April 1. During the time the assets of the firm were \$11,508.23. Among the items were bank accounts, \$1,173.54; real estate, \$4,517; mortgages, \$508.30; rents collected, \$3,710.13.

The total disbursements were \$51,957.59. The sum of \$3,017 was deposited with the First-Bridgeport National bank, pending settlement of certain suits brought by the bank.

The Burr & Knapp firm and while the bills for repairs amounted to \$33.37. The total amount gained since last August is \$5,550.84.

Trustee Chamberlain is of the belief that the book stored by his order in the barn on Reservoir avenue which included the banking books and papers of the firm of Burr & Knapp were included in the sale.

In explaining the connection with the Burr & Knapp tangle, Trustee Chamberlain today disclosed that subsequent to the receivership of the Burr & Knapp firm, as trustee, he had advertised the sale of such business but the public were afraid to make offers. A second date was set for public auction. People were afraid that the concern "would steal the business back" and refused to bid. Hervey E. Burr offered \$3,000, according to Mr. Chamberlain.

Protest was made at the time that this amount was not adequate. Further explaining the sale Mr. Chamberlain said today: "Mr. Banks himself finally said: 'Pay \$4,000 for the insurance and let that include all the books of the concern with the understanding that these books shall be kept so that they will be on hand for anyone who wishes to examine them.'"

Trustee Chamberlain today fully explained his connection with the books taken by agents for State's Attorney Cummings, making it plain that at no time did he as trustee in any way prevent access to the books and upon hearing from Mr. Bowers that they were wanted conducted him to the spot where they were stored. One letter book still in his possession and being used for the purpose of completing a report will be at the service of the investigators at any time. Mr. Chamberlain further says that he gave any aid needed to the investigators or any creditors of the concern who may wish information.

He also corrected a statement to the effect that Herbert M. Knapp today is receiving a salary or has any connection officially with the Title Guarantee & Trust company. "Mr. Knapp is engaged in getting loans and inspecting the company upon strictly commission basis. Knapp owns no stock and has no control in the management."

In connection with his next trustee's report, Mr. Chamberlain said that this report had not been peremptorily ordered by the referee but that it will, he hopes, show added assets to the company for a deed has recently been received from Mrs. Knapp for the home on Park place and Lafayette street that has been in litigation and demanded by the trustee. It was alleged that this property transferred to Mrs. Knapp in 1905 was done at a time

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## GERMAN U BOAT LOST IN BATTLE; CREW CAPTURED

Prais, April 6—A German submarine was sunk today by a squadron of French and British warships, the ministry of marine announced today. The crew of the submarine was captured.

Forty-eight of Crew Lost.

Queenstown, April 6—The British steamer Zent has been torpedoed without warning west of Fastnet. Forty-eight members of her crew are missing and are supposed to have been drowned. Two men were killed, Captain Martin and nine of the crew

have landed here.

No Americans on Baus.

Washington, April 6—The American consul at Havre reported today that in the sinking of the Norwegian steamer Baus, presumably by a submarine, four persons perished but that no Americans were aboard.

## WASHINGTON AWAITING GERMANY'S ANSWER ON TORPEDOING OF SUSSEX

Washington, April 6—With the entire submarine situation hanging on Germany's attitude with regard to the Sussex and other recent marine disasters, administration officials today awaited with intense interest a response from the Berlin foreign offices made by Ambassador Gerard. The accumulation of evidence indicating that German submarines were responsible for the disasters is understood to have convinced officials that it is up to the Berlin government to demonstrate the value of promises given the United States.

The situation was the subject of a conference at the White House last night between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing. To the many reports from abroad indicating that the British Channel steamer Sussex was

torpedoed without warning today was added a graphic story of the wreck contained in a report of Rear Admiral Grasset to the French general staff made public at the French embassy. The report declares that the Sussex was unharmed; that the attack on her was premeditated; that the wake of a torpedo was seen by many of those on board and that the submarine "must have remained in the neighborhood of the Sussex in order to torpedo any ship which might come to the rescue of her victims."

The state department today announced the receipt of a copy of the French official report of the explosion which damaged the Sussex. The report already made public by the French embassy here, charges that warning.

## BULLARD PLANT TO HAVE STILL LARGER WORKS

Original Factory of Bullard Company to Be Supplanted By Modern Structure

Plans for the further expansion of the manufacturing plant of the Bullard Machine Tool Co., announced today, call for the erection of a five story factory in Railroad avenue, on the site of the first home of the company.

The expansion will mean the working of the four story brick building now on the site. The new factory will be a continuation of the addition just completed along Broad street, extending from Allen street to Railroad avenue. It will extend along Railroad avenue, a distance of 110 feet and will have a depth of 44 feet. It will be essentially fireproof throughout, constructed of reinforced concrete of the beam and type, with walls of red brick and steel sash.

Work of wrecking the four story building now occupying the Railroad avenue site will be begun in May, and construction of the new factory addition will be underway by June 1.

The completion of the Railroad avenue shop will give the corporation a handsome and modern equipment. The new factory will be built on a site of 278 feet and a depth of 50 feet. Like the Railroad avenue addition, it is five stories in height.

When completed the buildings will represent an outlay of approximately \$200,000 for new construction work. The Turner Construction Co. has contracts for the new work under the supervision of Fletcher-Thompson, Inc., engineers.

The factory in Railroad avenue which will be torn down to make room for the new plant was built about 35 or 40 years ago. In 1880, E. P. Bullard issued a part of the factory from its owners and founded his machine tool business here. Later he acquired the whole plant.

The plant has a large volume of orders on hand and is operating with three shifts of workmen.

## PASSPORT FRAUD CASE READY FOR THE GRAND JURY

Washington, April 6—The government's investigation of the alleged connection of Carl A. Luderitz, German consul at Baltimore, with the issue of an American passport to Horst Von Der Goltz, a confessed German spy, under the name of Bridgman Taylor, has reached a point where the next step is to lay the facts before a federal grand jury.

## THE WEATHER

Probably rain tonight, Friday fair and colder. Fresh shifting winds.

## BRIDGE BOARDS WON'T CONSIDER BIDS PRESENTED

Mayor's Suggestion Not To Open Them Endorsed By Two Commissions.

IGNORE WARNING OF EXPERT ENGINEERS

Steel Prices Soaring, Administration Humors Unaccountable Whim.

On the pretext that the city might not get a fair deal the members of the Grand street and the East Washington avenue bridge commissions at the suggestion of Mayor Wilson today voted not to open any bids on the bridges. They also voted to readvertise for bids to be opened Saturday, May 6, at 12 o'clock noon.

The joint meeting of the commission took this action despite the fact that bridge building experts present at the meeting said that within a month the prices of steel will likely be much higher than at present. Also that bridge building firms might be engaged with other contracts to such extent that they would not care to bid on the plans.

Sixteen bridge building firms asked for plans of the proposed bridges but of these only three offered bids.

Toole & Sunderlin of Bridgeport bid on the East Washington avenue bridge. Snare & Trieste Co., Woolworth building, New York city, bid on the Grand street bridge, and Edward DeVoe Tompkins, Inc., 17 East Thirty-eighth street, New York, on both bridges.

Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co., Chicago, Ill.; Holbrook, Cabot & Rollins, Bridgeport, Conn.; J. A. Rogers, 271 W. 158th street, New York; Arthur McMullen Co., 149 Broadway, New York; Averill-Matthews Co., 917 Essex building, Newark, N. J.; The Foundation Co., Woolworth building, New York; The U. A. Scott Co., New London, Conn.; Penn Bridge Co., Beaver Falls, Pa.; H. P. Converse & Co., 88 Broad street, Boston, Mass.; National Construction Co., Jenkins, Inc., 200 Broadway, New York; J. A. Rogers, 271 W. 158th street, New York; J. A. Rogers, 271 W. 158th street, New York; J. A. Rogers, 271 W. 158th street, New York.

An executive session was held before the meeting and it was voted to return the bids without opening them. Alderman Toole of the first electrical ward, who was satisfied with this arrangement, M. E. Skillen, representing the Snare & Trieste Co., Edward Dev. Tompkins of that company, C. H. Norwood, an electrical expert, who furnished bids on the electrical work on the bridges, objected.

Mr. Skillen said the price of steel is soaring and it was doubtful if the prices submitted would be duplicated a month from now. Mr. Norwood said the contractors had gone to considerable trouble in getting prices and the prices quoted only held good for procuring a contract within two weeks.

Mr. Tompkins said the prices he had offered were for material for immediate delivery and within a month the prices would be much higher. He thought in fairness to the bidders, so many firms having had an equal chance, that the contracts ought to be let today. Some of the representatives of the bidding firms said after the meeting it is unfair to reject bids without opening them as the preparation of each bid had cost the company making it from \$300 to \$400.

Mayor Wilson said he thought a motion and it was seconded by Alderman MacFadden and carried without a dissenting voice.

Commissioner P. H. Brady made such a motion and it was seconded by Alderman MacFadden and carried without a dissenting voice.

The regular monthly meeting of the Manufacturers' association executive board was held today. No public statement was made after the meeting.

This evening the automobile repair workers will gather and tomorrow will be spent in preparing copies of their demands for their employers. An answer will be asked for next Wednesday.

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"Commission" of \$25 To Cost Lindey \$86

Judge Bartlett in city court today imposed a fine of \$50 and costs on H. H. Lindey, alias "W. H. Harris," charged with embezzling \$25 from Harry Ford, automobile dealer of 289 Stratford avenue.

Lindey was a salesman for Ford and after making a sale a few weeks ago, kept \$25 of the sale price as part of his commission, which wasn't part of the agreement.

Lindey refused to turn over the \$25 and when he heard the police were after him he went to New York. He fought extradition, but he must now pay the cost of extradition which totals \$36.70. This, coupled with the fine of \$50 totals \$86.70. Lindey was unable to pay the fine and he was sent to the county jail.

One Is Killed

London, April 6—One person was killed and eight persons were injured in last night's Zeppelin raid, it was officially announced this afternoon.

Berlin, April 6—German troops have stormed the village of Haucoort, on the Avocourt-Bethincourt front northwest of Verdun, the war office announced today.

Paris, April 6—The war office announced this afternoon capture by the French of a large portion of the position north of Avocourt, known as Bois Carre, or "Square Woods." This ground was captured in the course of fighting which went on all of yesterday afternoon and last night in the Verdun region west of the Meuse, on the Avocourt-Bethincourt line.

## MEXICO REPORTED READY TO ASK WITHDRAWAL OF U. S. ARMY FROM PURSUIT

## GARRANZA LEADER SAYS VILLA AND HIS BANDITS WILL BE CAPTURED SOON

Torreón, April 6—General Luis Guterrez reported to General Trevino last night that he is very hopeful that General Cavazos will capture Villa and the remnants of his men during the next three days. Villa prisoners confirmed reports that their chief is wounded.

General Guterrez thinks Villa will try to double toward the western mountains when he finds the road

south strongly held. General Matias Ramos reports that he had a fight at Santa Teres, between Torreón and San Pedro, with a band of 28 robbers, of whom only three escaped alive.

The peace commission has yet reported, as Canuto Reyes is said to have gone toward San Juan De Mesquite to confer with the 11 generals directly under his command.

## KEEP NOSTRILS CLEANSSED, URGES HEALTH OFFICER

That is Effective Means of Combatting Germ Laden Dust Clouds.

Frequent cleansing of the nostrils, while dust is flying, is the advice of Health Officer E. A. McLellan as a means of avoiding the germs that bear the dread spotted fever, several cases of which have developed in Bridgeport during the last fortnight.

A new rule of the health department, which may help suppress epidemic, became effective yesterday. Drivers of cars containing dirt or ashes must keep their vehicles covered. The rule provides that where the cover is of material other than wood or iron, it must have down at least 12 inches over the sides and be firmly fastened. Violation entails a fine of not more than \$25.

## Pachyderm's Head Mounted Is Gift of Mooney To B. H. S.

Harry Mooney, the well known elephant trainer of the Barnum & Bailey circus, has presented the Department of Biology of the local High school, with an excellent specimen of an elephant's skull.

This gift will prove to be of great value in illustrating the peculiar dentition of this animal, as well as many other distinguishing characteristics.

## Doing His Friend a Service, Youth Arrested For Theft

Philip Wheeler, aged 23, rooming at 125 Read street, was charged with the theft of a new suit of clothes from his roommate, Leo Collins, in city court today.

Collins works in the Union Metallic Cartridge Co. and Wheeler is a polisher at the Whiting Silver Co. They have been boon companions since childhood. They came to this city a few months ago and have roomed together.

On the night of March 30, Collins returned to his boarding house with a new suit of clothes. The following day he went to his former home in Norwalk, after leaving a note in his bedroom informing Wheeler that he would not be back until Monday. Wheeler took a notion also to return to Norwalk and he said that, believing that Collins had forgotten the suit, he brought it with him to Norwalk.

Apparently Collins had changed his mind on remaining at home over the weekend and he returned to this city Saturday evening only to find that his new suit was gone as was his roommate's skull.

The police were notified and Wheeler was arrested in Norwalk with the suit in his possession. He told Judge Bartlett this morning that it was his intention to give Collins the suit but that he found that Collins had returned to this city when he arrived in Norwalk. Wheeler was given the benefit of the doubt and his case was nolleed by Judge Bartlett.

## Tanker With 5,000 Barrels of Oil Is Destroyed By Fire

New York, April 6.—The tank steamer San Cristobal, owned and operated by the Mexican Oil company between Mexican and Gulf ports, was destroyed by fire together with a cargo of 5,000 barrels of crude oil, on March 27, at Puerto Mexico, according to reports brought here today by the Ward line steamship Santiago.

The San Cristobal was built at Newcastle, Eng., in 1906. She was registered at 1,230 tons.

## DEFECTIVE WIRING IS CAUSE OF BLAZE IN GODDARD AVENUE

Defective electric wiring in the home of William J. Shermier at 263 Goddard avenue was the cause of a fire in the upper portion of the house at 1:30 this afternoon. The fire was confined to the inner part of the walls on the second floor of the house. Damage to the building was slight.

## BRASS CO. WILL SHARE EARNINGS WITH EMPLOYEES

Business Favorable, Firm Announces Bonuses For All Its Workers.

Bonuses will be given next week to all the employees of the Bridgeport Brass Co., who have been with the firm since April 1. The extra cash will be an amount equivalent to five per cent of the employee's earnings for the last three months.

The following note was included in the pay envelopes distributed yesterday: To those who were in our employ April 1, 1916, we will give in our pay envelopes April 12, 1916, a bonus of five per cent on their earnings for January, February and March. We appreciate the increased cost of living and are pleased that present favorable business permits us to do this.

Bridgeport Brass Co. The bonuses will amount to \$20,000. This is equivalent to the quarterly dividend paid the stockholders.

## Fond of Orphan, Wish To Adopt Her

An orphan girl, taken from the county home two years ago, has, so won her way into the affections of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Benham of Shelton, that they have started proceedings to adopt the child. The girl's name is Margaret Mallady and she is ten years old. She was sent to the Norwalk home from this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Benham appeared before the Board of Managers of the County home this morning and stated their request. They said they had come so fond of the little girl that they wanted to legally adopt her. The board approved the petition and the next step will be a hearing in the Norwalk probate court.

## Jingling Quarters No Proof That You've Robbed a Gas Meter

The fact that William Page, a member of the Royal Social club, colored, was seen exchanging 25 cent pieces for dollar bills during the last week, was insufficient to convict him on the charge of robbing the gas meter at the club rooms on Water street, in the opinion of Judge Bartlett in city court today and a nolle was entered.

William Thomas, alias "Baby Doll," chief steward of the club, caused the arrest of Page. The following day he went to Water street said that Page had eight quarters which he asked him to exchange for two \$1 bills. He also said that Page intimated that he had several more \$5 bills in his pockets. Page denied the accusation and he was released.

## Has Twenty-Eight Interest In Estate at Paris—New York

Amelia Gohringer of 591 Myrtle avenue is entitled to one twenty-eight interest in a Paris, N. Y., estate, according to papers served upon this morning by Deputy Sheriff Cunningham. Charles Bauer of Paris has brought a friendly action against the heirs of Karl Bauer to have the New York state courts order a partition of the estate. Amelia Gohringer was a grandchild of Karl Bauer and for that reason is named as a co-defendant. The papers do not give the value of the estate.

## BAVARIA AND SAXONY TO HAVE MEAT CARDS

Berlin, April 6.—Meat cards will be introduced in Bavaria and Saxony on April 15, permitting consumption of 150 grams (one-third pound) per capita daily except on two meatless days each week.

Bavaria has forbidden sale of canned meats, whole hams, whole sausages, etc., to individuals, to prevent the accumulation of stocks in advance. Individual meat cards probably will not be issued in Berlin. Regulations of distribution will be effected by limiting the supply for each resident.

Holding That Troopers Are Following a "Cold Trail" De Facto Government Says Presence Might Cause Embarrassment.

Army Officers Admit Hunt Will Take Long Time—Apache Indians, Going As U. S. Scouts, Do War Dance Before Departure.

El Paso, April 6—Intimations in Washington that the Carranza government might soon indicate to the American government that the troops pursuing Villa were futilely following a "cold trail" and that the de facto government would welcome the return of the United States troops to their own country, occasioned no surprise in El Paso today.

There have been insistent reports here that the de facto government looked with disfavor on a further pursuit of Villa because the presence of American troops on Mexican soil was proving an embarrassment. These reports could not be confirmed because the Mexican officials both here and in Juarez said the questions of a diplomatic nature must be considered by the government heads at Queretaro.

Army officers here say that while the difficulties of the Villa hunt increase daily and that it may be weeks before he is captured the pursuit will be relentlessly continued until the word comes from Washington to withdraw the troops.

Twenty Apache Indian scouts passed through here today enroute to the front where they will try to pick up Villa's trail. The Apaches made an unbroken run of 60 miles from Fort Apache to Holbrook, Ariz., and then did a war dance before taking the train.

General Funston today asked that war department to send the recruits enlisted under the recent authorization of 20,000 additional men, to Brownsville, Tex., for distribution among the border patrol regiments.

## UNDER BELL HE TOLLED, SEXTON HANGS HIMSELF

New York, April 6—Under the bell of old St. Paul's chapel the sexton hanged himself today. Philip G. Walter, tiring, as he had recently complained, of the monotony of his position as sexton of the church at the famous edifice, at Broadway and Vesey street, climbed upon a piano stool which he had placed upon a table, fastened a sash around his neck, tied the end of this cord to the head of the stairs which lead to the belfry and kicked the stool down under him.

Discovery of the sexton's act was made by an assistant who lit a room below had found a pad upon which Walter had written instructions for the finder to climb to the room beneath the belfry. Walter was 55 years old.

## Knot In Scaffold Plank-Contributed To Serious Accident

Tomorrow Coroner John J. Phelan will visit St. Vincent's hospital and endeavor to obtain a statement from Michael Rapier whose address is unknown. Rapier is an employee of Dowling & Bottomley and his skull was fractured in the collapse of a scaffold Tuesday at the addition being built on the county courthouse. The coroner will also endeavor to obtain a statement also from Paul Bogelko, aged 18, 53 Commercial street, who was hurt in the same accident. Coroner Phelan has discovered there was a knot in one of the planks that broke under the weight of a lintel, which fell on it. This lintel was being raised to a window casing when it shifted in the grasp of the workmen and fell on the planks of the scaffold. The platform collapsed and the workmen fell three stories to the ground. At St. Vincent's hospital today it was said that Rapier will recover.

## TORCHES FIRE BARN

Lighted torches in the hands of painters who were endeavoring to scorch the old paint off the side of the homestead on the Calhoun farm on upper Madison road at 10 o'clock this morning set fire to the clapboards. The flames were extinguished by chemicals used by firemen from Chemical Co. No. 1. The damage was slight.